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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2004

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE  
THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION  
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#### HEADLINES

##### MASS APPEALS

Al-Qaeda, PKK prime suspects in Istanbul bombings - DB-  
Tercuman  
Interior minister: Bombings target Turkish tourism - Aksam  
Iraqi defense ministry bans Kurdish - Milliyet  
Kerry supports Iraq war - Milliyet  
Bush's favorite, Nader, is Kerry's nightmare - Hurriyet  
'Turkey's friend' Goss to administer CIA - Aksam  
'Time' correspondent detained for not revealing source -  
Hurriyet

##### OPINION MAKERS

Kerry no different than Bush on Iraq - Cumhuriyet  
US calls on civilians to leave Najaf - Radikal  
'Genocide' dispute between US, EU over Darfur - Zaman  
A 'new generation' of al-Qaeda leaders - Radikal  
Libya to pay \$35 million for 'La Belle' bombing - Zaman  
Bush gives CIA to Goss - Radikal  
Democrats oppose Bush's CIA nominee - Zaman  
Russia concerned about US missile shield project -  
Cumhuriyet  
BP, Shell watch Iraq - Radikal  
German workers warn government - Cumhuriyet

#### BRIEFING

Bomb attacks on Istanbul hotels: Separate Kurdish and  
Islamist groups say they were behind a series of bombs that  
killed two people and injured several in coordinated attacks  
in Istanbul on Tuesday morning. A previously unknown  
Kurdish group - the Kurdistan Freedom Hawks - claimed  
responsibility for the explosions that occurred at two small  
hotels and a gas plant in Istanbul. A group linked to al-  
Qaeda also claimed responsibility for the attacks, calling  
them the first of a 'wave of operations' across Europe, and  
threatening worse to come. Officials said that PKK  
separatists were the prime suspects. The US State  
Department on Tuesday condemned the bombings in Istanbul,  
noting that no Americans had been killed or injured in the  
blasts. "Cumhuriyet" fears that the PKK may shift attacks  
to urban areas as of August 15, the 20th anniversary of the  
establishment of the terrorist organization. Terror first  
struck in southeast Turkey, and then Istanbul following the  
occupation by US forces in northern Iraq, the paper  
speculates. Turkish police on Wednesday detained eight  
suspects with alleged links to the PKK following the  
Istanbul bomb attacks. Police are working to locate some  
700 kg of TNT explosives taken into Turkey from northern  
Iraq by PKK teams, "Sabah" reports. "Milliyet" claims that  
several PKK militants went to major cities in western Turkey  
after receiving explosives training on Gabar mountain in  
northern Iraq.

Turkey rejects US demands again: Ankara has turned down a  
US request for permission to carry out 'extensive' military  
exercises in Konya province this year, writes "Vatan."  
Instead, Ankara has told the US it will allow the exercises  
to proceed under a routine memorandum of understanding which  
does not meet the US expectations of conducting 'extensive'  
operations of unspecified duration.

Iraqi Interim President due in Turkey next week: Dailies  
expect Ankara to take tight security measures during the  
call by Iraqi Interim President Gazi al-Yawar next week.  
Turkish leaders will discuss with Yawar bilateral trade  
issues, Turkey's contribution to Iraq's reconstruction, and  
the recently intensified attacks against Turkish contractors  
in the region. A "Sabah" commentary speculates that Ankara  
is also discussing with the US the current security hazards  
in Iraq. Another commentary in "Sabah" claims that Zarkawi

has denied responsibility for the killing of Turkish truck driver Murat Yuce in Baghdad last week. Justice Minister and government spokesman Cemil Cicek said that Yuce may have been killed by Turkish `volunteers' collaborating with the insurgents in Iraq. Turkey will not suspend trade with Iraq, but will set up loading stations for Turkish truckers carrying goods into the region. An MFA official said that goods taken to US forces in Iraq constituted just a tiny fraction of Turkish shipments to Iraq. Ankara believes a new border crossing into Iraq is needed to facilitate the transport of goods to Iraqis and to allow Turkey to continue providing logistical support to US forces in the region, according to "Sabah." The issue is to be raised during the Yawar visit.

PM Erdogan to Georgia: PM Erdogan on Wednesday will be visiting Tbilisi and Batumi on a two-day official visit to Georgia, papers report. Before setting off for Georgia, Erdogan met with Russian Ambassador to Turkey, Peter Stegny, to discuss Russia's Caucasus strategy. Erdogan will be discussing bilateral relations and the situation in South Ossetia with Georgian leaders.

Turkey/Greece: Greek PM Karamanlis praised PM Erdogan in an interview with the French newspaper "Le Monde." Karamanlis said that Erdogan had `improved' Turkish democracy and brought Turkey closer to the EU. Erdogan will attend the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games in Athens, and Karamanlis is expected to visit Turkey August 16-20.

Kurdish mayors may be `sacked': Turkey's Minister of the Interior, Abdulkadir Aksu, may sack Diyarbakir's Kurdish mayor Osman Baydemir and four district mayors for paying a condolence visit to the family of a PKK militant killed in fighting with police in late July, "DB-Tercuman" claims. `The mayors will have to face the consequences of their action,' Aksu stressed, saying that they have `hurt the conscience' of the nation.

Turkish human traffickers arrested in Austria: Several members of a 30-man Turkish human trafficking gang were arrested in Innviertel, Austria, "Radikal" reports. The smugglers have been taking illegal immigrants from Turkey to Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Britain. Austrian police said the illegal immigrants were taken from Turkey to various EU countries before being transferred to the UK, where work and residence laws are more liberal.

Churches, synagogues in Turkey to be given free electricity: "Hurriyet"s Editor in-Chief Ertugrul Ozkok writes today that the Turkish government has decided to provide free electricity to synagogues and churches in the country. The Jewish community in Turkey has asked the authorities to provide synagogues and churches with free electricity -- a prerogative long enjoyed by Turkey's mosques. `We are taxpaying Turkish nationals, and should enjoy the same rights as Muslims,' a leader of the Jewish community told Ozkok. The electricity bills of non-Muslim communities' places of worship in Turkey will now be paid by the Religious Affairs Directorate (Diyanet).

#### EDITORIAL OPINION

"Iran and Turkey Will be at Top of New US Administration Agenda"

Tulin Daloglu wrote from Washington in the government-run "Star" (8/11): "Even though Bush and Kerry are neck and neck in the election campaign, I still believe that Kerry will win the election. Regardless of who wins, Iran and Turkey will be at the top of the new administration's foreign policy agenda. This week, both Bush and National Security Advisor Rice warned Iran once again about its nuclear program. Foreign diplomats in Washington believe there is no difference between Republicans and Democrats when it comes to Iran. But in the history of US politics, when national security is the issue, the Republicans have always been stronger. Kerry has to prove himself on the issue of national security. Kerry is aware of Turkey's strategic importance as well. If he is elected, there will be no change in the administration's stance regarding Turkey, and he will support Turkey strongly for EU membership. In summary, when you look at it from Washington, the stability of Turkey is critically important. If Turkey's main aim is EU membership, any US president will support that goal."

"From Sudan to Iran"

Ismail Kapan commented in the conservative "Turkiye" (8/11): "Recently, President Bush's national security advisor Rice officially threatened Iran once again, and implied that Iran's nuclear facilities could be destroyed. The Bush Administration's stance on Iran is not unknown, but while the US was intensively involved in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Iran issue was temporarily put on the shelf. Different

formulas have been tried in order to establish stability in Iraq, but to no avail. Now there is total chaos in Iraq, and it is spreading with every passing day. Strangely, the new Iraq administration is now picking a fight with Iran instead of exerting its effort to establish stability in the country. I wonder if the US is planning to intervene in Iran through Iraq? Also, as the elections get closer, Bush might try to generate a diversion in the political environment. The threat against Sudan is an example of this. By threatening Sudan, the US administration's goal is very different from what it is saying publicly. The region where the problems are taking place in Sudan is very rich in underground resources, including oil. One other reminder: former US president Jimmy Carter has been working in this region for some time as a missionary. Does that mean anything to you? The superpower's political and military maneuvers -- from Sudan to Iran -- should be followed carefully. EU officials should also pay some attention to this issue."

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